

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 05491 081946Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----064129 081949Z /43  
Z 081940Z APR 78 ZFF 4  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4928

S E C R E T LONDON 05491

NODIS.

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OGEN  
SUBJECT: STATUS OF UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL SHEVCHENKO

REF: STATE 91016

1. IN ABSENCE FROM LONDON OF THE AMBASSADOR,  
DCM MET WITH SYG WALDHEIM AT 7:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME,  
APRIL 8, TO CONVEY POINTS PER REFTEL.

2. WALDHEIM EXPRESSED THANKS FOR PROMPT INFORMATION.  
HE REPORTED MEYERHOFF HAD HEARD FROM SHEVCHENKO  
BY PHONE THAT LATTER HAD SENT A LETTER TO TROYANOVSKY  
ASKING HIM TO COMMUNICATE SHEVCHENKO'S INTENTION TO  
BREZHNEV, TOGETHER WITH SHEVCHENKO'S RATIONALE THAT  
STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE REPRESSIVE SOVIET REGIME. SYG  
SAID ALSO THAT TROYANOVSKY HAD WRITTEN HIM SAYING SHEV-  
CHENKO HAD DISAPPEARED AND ASKING SYG TO REQUEST U.S.  
AUTHORITIES TO TRY TO FIND HIM AND TO INFORM THE SOVIETS  
OF THE RESULTS OF THEIR ENDEAVORS.

3. ON SHEVCHENKO'S WHEREABOUTS, WALDHEIM SAID THAT  
NEITHER HE OR HIS STAFF WERE INFORMED. SHEVCHENKO, SYG  
SAID, REFUSED TO TELL MEYERHOFF WHERE HE WAS STAYING AND  
TO RESPOND TO MRS. SHEVCHENKO'S PLEA THAT HE CALL, ON  
THE GROUNDS THAT KGB OFFICIALS WERE AT SHEVCHENKO'S  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 05491 081946Z

HOUSE. HOWEVER, SHEVCHENKO SAID HE WOULD STAY IN  
TOUCH WITH MEYERHOFF.

4. WITH REGARD TO NEXT STEPS, SYG SAID THE SITUATION  
WAS "VERY COMPLICATED" AND THAT HE ANTICIPATED SERIOUS  
PROBLEMS. SHEVCHENKO, WHILE AN INTERNATIONAL CIVIL  
SERVANT, IS ALSO THE HIGHEST RANKING SOVIET NATIONAL

IN THE UN SECRETARIAT, AND LIKE OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS  
WAS APPOINTED ONLY AFTER CLOSEST CONSULTATION.

WALDHEIM UNDERLINED THAT HE  
IS SCRUPULOUSLY CAREFUL, AS THE U.S. KNEW IN THE CASE OF  
BILL BUFFUM, TO CONSULT CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING APPOINT-  
MENTS. IN THE PRESENT CASE, HE BELIEVED THE SOVIETS  
WOULD PRESS HIM NOT TO RETAIN SHEVCHENKO IN THE  
SECRETARIAT, AND WERE HE TO DO SO CONTRARY TO THEIR WIS-  
THEY COULD CLAIM NOT TO BE REPRESENTED ON THE SECRETAR-  
IAT AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL.

5. IT IS CLEAR, SYG SAID, THAT SHEVCHENKO WANTS TO  
GIVE UP HIS POSITION IN THE SOVIET SERVICE AND, IN  
EFFECT, WANTS TO DEFECT. THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID DIFFI-  
CULTY WOULD BE IF SHEVCHENKO RESIGNED HIS UN POST AND  
SOUGHT ASYLUM.

6. WALDHEIM SAID THAT, HAVING CONVEYED TO U.S. THE  
SOVIET REQUEST FOR SHEVCHENKO'S WHEREABOUTS, HE WOULD  
LEAVE IT TO U.S. WHETHER AND HOW TO REPLY.

7. AS BACKGROUND TO SHEVCHENKO'S DECISION, SYG RECALLED  
THAT HE LATELY HAD BEEN ABSENT FREQUENTLY FROM HIS  
OFFICE, OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE OF ILLNESS. ALSO, SHEVCHENKO  
HAD ASKED TO EXTEND HIS APPOINTMENT FOR TWO YEARS, THOUGH  
SYG SAID THAT SHEVCHENKO HAD SAID AT THE TIME THAT HE  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LONDON 05491 081946Z

PLANNED TO STAY ONLY A YEAR, UNTIL AFTER THE NEXT UNGA.  
THE EXTENSION HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR.

8. ON HIS OWN PLANS, WALDHEIM SAID HE WOULD BE IN LONDON  
UNTIL THE MORNING OF APRIL 10, WHEN HE GOES TO DUBLIN.  
HE RETURNS TO LONDON APRIL 12, ENROUTE TO VIENNA, WHERE  
HE WILL REMAIN UNTIL ABOUT APRIL 16 OR 17.

BREWSTER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL ASYLUM, DEFECTORS, CAT-B  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LONDON05491  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** P840139-2324, N780004-0346  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** LONDON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780478/aaaacobj.tel  
**Line Count:** 103  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 4fb2aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 91016  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3030501  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STATUS OF UNDER ECRETARY GENERAL SHEVCHENKO  
**TAGS:** OGEN, PINS, UR, US, (SHEVCHENKO, ARKADY N)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4fb2aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014